National Weather Service
Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm

WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>072 **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

03 0000CST 2359CST 0 0 Winter Weather/Mix

Periodic light freezing drizzle or light freezing rain glazed roads and sidewalks across south-central and southeast Wisconsin, resulting in an estimated 150 to 200 vehicle accidents, ranging from simple collisions to slide-offs into ditches or collisions with large objects. Most accidents occurred during the morning rush hour. Dozens of schools started late or cancelled classes for the day. In addition, some taxi-cab businesses closed due to the icy roads and numerous accidents. During the afternoon hours, the freezing precipitation changed over to snow which accumulated to 1/2 to 2 inches, although isolated 3 to 4 inch amounts were measured around La Valle (northwest corner of Sauk Co.), and in Marquette County.

WIZ063>066 **Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee**

11 1500CST 2000CST 0 0 Winter Storm

The first winter storm of the 2002-03 season, to affect parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin, was centered in a 25-mile wide corridor from the Madison (Dane Co.) area east to the Milwaukee (Milwaukee Co.) area. A 2 to 2.5 hour burst of snow accumulating to 4 to 7 inches was followed by west to northwest winds gusting to 30 to 43 kts (35 to 50 mph). These wind gusts resulted in blowing and drifting snow which lowered visibilities down to 1/4 mile or less in open, exposed areas (after the snow had stopped). Outside of the winter storm area, an isolated peak gust of 49 kts (56 mph) occurred at the Monroe Airport (Green Co.). Lightning and thunder were observed during the peak snowfall rates, with snowflakes reported to be at least 1 inch in diameter, and visibilities reduced to 1/4 mile or less. Due to the timing and intensity of this event, the impact on society was significant. Commuting times were doubled or tripled, and numerous vehicles accidents were reported in newspapers, as rush-hour traffic slowed to a crawl. Many evening functions and sporting events were cancelled. Milwaukee's Mitchell Field closed its operations for a 2-hour period during the height of the snowfall, the first time it shut down in two years. Snow accumulations in Milwaukee County included 7.0 inches in Hales Corner, 6.7 inches in Franklin, 6.3 inches in Cudahy, 6.2 inches in Greendale, and 5.0 inches at Mitchell Field. In and around the city of Waukesha (Waukesha Co.) accumulations of 5 to 6 inches were reported. In east-central Jefferson County, 5.2 inches were measured at the NWS Forecast Office southeast of Sullivan. In Dane County, 5.1 inches were reported on the southwest side of Madison (spotter report near the intersection of Raymond Rd and Hwy 18/151), 4.9 inches in Sun Prairie, and 4.0 inches at Madison's Truax Field. Maximum wind gusts were 43 kts (49 mph) at a school in Merton (Waukesha Co.), 38 kts (44 mph) at the Madison West High School, and 37 kts (43 mph) at Milwaukee's Mitchell Field. Synoptically, the surface weather map lacked a well-defined low pressure. However, a strong, vigorous vorticity maximum aloft, and its associated frontogenetic forcing, combined with instability to produce bands of convective snow showers